

A note from Kathy

If I were to title this chapter, I believe it would be “Check your motives.” Jesus addresses some areas that can rob us of the blessed life. As we read and study this chapter, let’s determine to give each area a new position of priority. I am praying for you and for myself that we will open our hearts and hear from our heavenly Father.

Observation

1. Jesus instructs us to be careful not to perform acts of righteousness to be seen. If we do, what is our real motive? What is our reward?
2. Read the chapter aloud or turn on your YouVersion Bible app and listen as you read along. In verses 1-18, there are three subjects Jesus addresses.
 - a. When you
 - b. When you
 - c. When you
3. To what extreme did Jesus say to go when we are giving to meet a need (vs. 3)?
4. Fill in the chart below with all you glean from these passages. Some boxes may be easier to fill in than others.

Matthew 6	Do	Don't do	Reward
Vss. 1-4			
Vss. 5-15			
Vss. 16-18			
Vss. 19-21			
Vss. 25-32			
Vss. 33-34			

5. What examples of God's care and provision were we given in verses 26-30?
6. Look up Genesis 1:28-29 what is humanity in the order of creation? How does knowing this truth along with Matthew 6:26-30 build your faith? Be specific.
7. Matthew 6:32, The Message translation says "People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works." According to this verse, what is lacking when we worry?
8. Scripture declares we are not to _____ about tomorrow. Every day comes with its own amount of _____ and _____. We must train our hearts not to be overly concerned with what might happen, but simply live in the day we have been given.
9. Fill in the chart below with the truth you have seen in this chapter.

<u>Treasures on Earth</u>	<u>Treasures in Heaven</u>	<u>Worry</u>
I store up earthly treasure when I ...	I store up heavenly treasure when I ...	I do this because <hr/> I worry about...

Application

1. All three, giving, praying, and fasting, are to be done as acts of worship.
It is imperative that we check our motives. What are some ways that we could do these things with the wrong motives?
 - a. When I give...
 - b. When I pray...
 - c. When I fast...

Doing any of these acts for any reason other than an offering to God **will not** bring a “well done” response from our heavenly Father.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is more deceitful than anything else and desperately sick—who can understand it? I, the Lord, examine the mind; I test the heart to give to each according to his way, according to what his actions deserve.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

2. In what way has your study of Matthew 6 changed the way you give, pray and fast?
3. Jesus draws some very clear lines for those who would follow him. In verses 19-24, he speaks to the earthly treasures that we all have. Again, Jesus goes to the heart of the matter. Are we storing up earthly things so that we can be assured we will never have a need? If we never have a need how will we experience God's loving provision? Or perhaps we are simply not diligently looking for ways to lay up treasure in heaven.

I would like to share a story from our family. On May 3, 1999, a devastating and deadly F5 tornado hit the Oklahoma City metro. After it was over, the needs were so great that it seemed impossible to comprehend. My children were grown and moved out on their own; it was just John and I living at home now, with the occasional over night visit from relatives. Since our home was not hit, we knew that we wanted to have a part in helping the families who were in need. We went through every cabinet and drawer to find items to give. We packed them up and took them to one of the distribution locations. Without even knowing it, we had stored up treasure here that we did not need. If I had been really kingdom living, I would have gone through all that stuff years before.

Do you have "earthly treasure" that could meet a need or be of help to someone else?

4. You might like to add a little heart to the places on your chart (Observation #4) where you would like to see your heart reside. ❤️ Why do we store up earthly treasure?
5. When we store up earthly treasure what does this reveal about our heart?
6. When we store up heavenly treasure what does this reveal about our heart?
7. What are some of the things that might keep us from seeking first his kingdom and his righteousness?
8. Look back over the list on the bottom of page 2; ask God to help you see opportunities to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness in new ways?

Remember it is not always the big things.

- a. A mother with a kingdom focus sees and takes opportunities to hear the heart of a child.
 - b. A friend with a kingdom focus is not too busy to rejoice or weep with others.
 - c. A wife with a kingdom focus prays for her husband not merely to be successful but to be the man God created and desires for him to be.
 - d. A woman with a kingdom focus yields herself to the Lord in order to allow the Holy Spirit of God to accomplish His work in her.
9. Which of God's attributes have been especially meaningful to you this week as you studied his word?